

Quarterly Report FY13 Quarter 4  
July-September 2013

Projet d'Appui à la Sécurisation des Terres et Ouvrages de Réhabilitation des Aires Locales (PASTORAL)  
Funded by USAID / OFDA



*Ngouboura village chief receiving a newly-rehabilitated pastoral well.*

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY
<p>Thierno Samba DIALLO</p> <p>Country Director</p> <p>Address: Rue IB-28, Issa Béri</p> <p>Niamey, Niger</p> <p>Telephone: + 227 20 73 9633/34</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:tdiallo@ne.mercycorps.org">tdiallo@ne.mercycorps.org</a></p>	<p>Jihane Nami</p> <p>Senior Program Officer</p> <p>Address: 45 SW Ankeny Street</p> <p>Portland, OR 97204</p> <p>Telephone: +1 503 896 5802</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:jnami@mercycorps.org">jnami@mercycorps.org</a></p>	<p>Award No: AID-OFDA-G-11-00067</p> <p>Start Date: March 2011</p> <p>End Date: September 2013</p> <p>Report Date: October 31, 2013</p> <p>Total Award: USD \$2,724,892</p>

## 1. Executive Summary

In March 2011, USAID/OFDA funded the *Projet d'Appui à la Sécurisation des Terres et Ouvrages de Réhabilitation des Aires Locales (PASTORAL)* to mitigate the food insecurity of agro-pastoral and pastoral households in the international transhumance corridors in the northern part of the Filingué Department, Tillabéri region of Niger. In March 2012, PASTORAL was extended until March 2013 and modified to include only the food security components. A no-cost extension was granted in February 2013, extending the PASTORAL-II program to May 31, 2013 to allow for an additional 30 days of CFW activities for 2,000 beneficiary households as well as the set up and training of ten additional Community Based Land Tenure Commissions (COFOBs). An Unfunded Modification was later granted, extending the implementation timeframe for the completion of five remaining wells—to occur by September 30, 2013. During the reporting period (July 1-September 30, 2013), Mercy Corps rehabilitated four of the five planned pastoral wells.

## 2. Program Overview

Mercy Corps' PASTORAL-II program was designed to improve the food security of 5,554 agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households in rural areas of the Filingué region. The program was adjusted to include an Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) component following a government provision issued in June 2012, which stopped all CFW activities in order to enable farmers to focus on their crops during the rainy season. As such, Mercy Corps received donor permission to shift from CFW to UCT during that time, to support the food needs of 2,000 households during their fieldwork and harvest (July-October). The 2,000 beneficiary households included the 1,500 CFW workers, as well as 500 additional vulnerable households. All CFW and UCT activities were completed by September 30, 2012. An additional round of CFW with 2,000 participants, took place in April – May 2013.

The principal activities of the PASTORAL-II program include:

- Distribution of animal feed vouchers for 411.3 MT of supplementary feed for cattle belonging to the 2,742 beneficiary households;
- Promotion of improved fodder harvest and storage and animal health and nutrition through training and sensitization to 900 pastoralists;
- Rehabilitation of five pastoral wells and retraining of five water management committees;
- Cash for Work for 2,000 beneficiaries (including an additional cycle during the no-cost extension), rehabilitating and re-seeding grazing lands to increase fodder production;
- Unconditional Cash Transfers to 2,000 beneficiary households;
- Establishment and training of 30 local land management committees (including an additional ten COFOBs during the no-cost extension) and sensitization of communities on disaster risk reduction and on the mitigation and resolution of conflicts over natural resources.

These activities aimed to: 1) improve overall livestock health, leading to increased productivity, milk production and subsequently improved nutrition rates among children of agro-pastoralists and pastoralists along the transhumance corridor; and 2) support farmers to invest their time in their own farms during the rainy season.

The program reached approximately 5,554 households, or 38,878 people in 30 communities. 2,000 households participated in Cash for Work and/or received Unconditional Cash Transfers and 2,742 households benefited from livestock care and animal feed vouchers. All households benefited from improved conflict prevention strategies through sensitization and the establishment of Community Based Land Tenure Commissions (COFOB). Of the planned five wells, only four were rehabilitated due to factors beyond anyone's control.

### 3. Performance Summary

**Table 1: Progress to date**

<b>Sector:</b> <b>Agriculture and Food Security</b>	<b>Objective:</b> <i>Targeted agro-pastoralists and pastoralists enhance and protect their animal assets</i>		
Beneficiaries Targeted	Total: 5,554 households (estimated 38,878 individuals)		
Beneficiaries Reached	5,554 households (100%) (0 IDPs)		
Number of IDP Beneficiaries Targeted:	0		
Geographic Area (s)	Along the international transhumance corridors in Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger		
<b>Sub-sector: Livestock</b>			
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>BASELINE</b>	<b>TARGET</b>	<b>PROGRESS (09/30/13)</b>
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	0	19,194 <sup>1</sup>	19,194
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	0	19,194	19,194
Number of animals fed through supplementary feed vouchers	0	19,194 <sup>2</sup>	19,194
Number of wells rehabilitated	0	5	4
Number of people employed through Cash for Work (CFW) activities	0	2000	2000

<sup>1</sup> In the several previous reports the numbers under 'target' and 'progress' mistakenly showed the number of households whose animals benefited instead of the number of animals. A baseline survey carried out by Mercy Corps in March 2012 shows that the average number of cattle owned per household was 7. This coincides with the estimated average number of members per household, which explains why the number of animals and the number of people benefiting from livestock activities are the same.

<sup>2</sup> Idem.

Average USD amount per person earned through the CFW activities.	0	\$173.33	\$210.99 <sup>3</sup> for initial 1500 beneficiaries, \$87 for additional 500 NCE beneficiaries
Number and percent of women employed through CFW activities	0	600 (40%)	1119 (56%)
Number of people benefitting from Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT)	0	2,000	2,000
Average USD amount per person earned through the UCT	0	\$183	\$183
Number of COFOB established and strengthened	0	20	30
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management	0	5,554	5,554 (100%)

### 3.1 Supplementary Animal Feed Vouchers

This activity was completed during the first quarter of the program.

### 3.2 Training on Fodder Harvest and Storage and Animal Health & Nutrition

This activity was completed during the quarter ending March 31, 2013

### 3.3 Rehabilitation of Pastoral Wells

Over the course of the PASTORAL program, all five existing water management committees received training on water source management and maintenance and on conflict prevention and management techniques to ensure fair access to water sources while minimizing conflicts between users (herders and agro-pastoralists).

During previous reporting periods, Mercy Corps selected an engineering company to rehabilitate five pastoral wells following a tender process. The firm was supposed to have completed the work by May 2013. However, during joint monitoring of the progress on the rehabilitation of the wells, Mercy Corps and the Government of Niger (GoN) realized that the contractor was not fulfilling its obligations with regards to quality and timeliness of work performed, prompting Mercy Corps to cancel the contract. The subsequent timeframe required for re-bidding and contracting the well work required an Unfunded Modification for this activity, which was granted in May 2013, extending the end date of the program to September 30, 2013. A new service provider was contracted to complete remaining tasks.

<sup>3</sup> The gap in target and progress figures is due to the Government suspending CFW activities during the rainy season. The balance was replaced by unconditional cash transfers to beneficiaries.

Work on the wells began in May 2013, with close monitoring by the GoN technical services and a Mercy Corps staff member dedicated to the supervision of the well rehabilitation. By the end of September 2013, work was completed on four of the five wells on schedule, offering improved water sources for the following pastoral communities:

- Tantigar
- Kahougué
- Maiguizaza
- Ngouboura



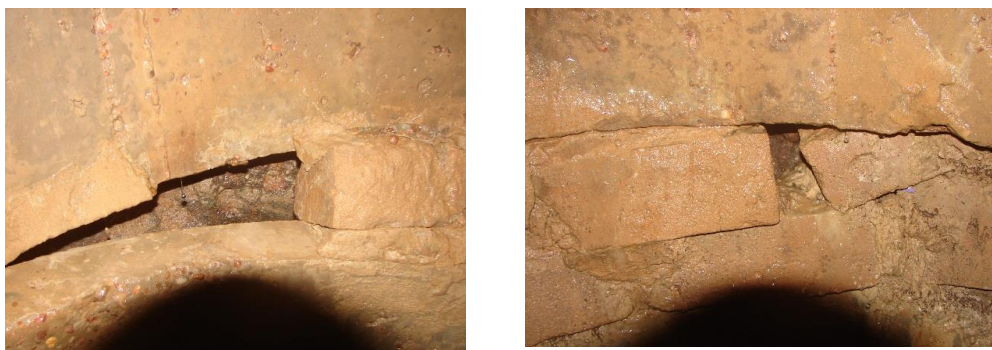
*Tantigar pastoralist at a well opening ceremony*

Unfortunately, in early September one of the wells (located in Guijrya, Sanam Commune, Abala Department) presented technical- and safety-related issues. When the engineering company started rehabilitation, the well was 46 meters deep and was dry. Unfortunately, as work progressed, the poorly supported siding at the bottom of the hand-dug well caved in. A joint visit by Mercy Corps, the GoN water department and the engineering company was conducted to analyze the situation. The assessment mission found that:

- The soil in the well was sandy, leading to landslips, which represent a high safety risk to the people working on the well.
- The well structure has slipped from the depth of 6 meters down and any other work on it would worsen the problem, causing more damage or an entire collapse.
- The concrete support rings were not fastened to each other (see photos) which heightens risk of further damage and potential injuries.
- The extraction of any remaining concrete rings in order to place new ones became impossible

Based on the technical analysis of the well, all parties agreed that the damage was not the responsibility of any present party and that the only possible course of action was to abandon the rehabilitation of the well, as continuing work would jeopardize worker safety and eventually render the well less productive to users than at present.





*Space between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> concrete rings at the Guijrya well site.*

Mercy Corps found no alternative wells to rehabilitate in the Guijrya community and opted to not attempt to rehabilitate a fifth well in another non-PASTORAL community as that would have been outside the program scope. As a result, only four wells were rehabilitated under PASTORAL-II. In addition to the four wells funded by USAID/OFDA under PASTORAL, Mercy Corps had previously raised matching funds to rehabilitate six other pastoral wells and train similar management committees. By the end of the program, a total of 10 wells serve PASTORAL II communities.

### **3.4 Cash for Work**

The first cycle of CFW activities was completed in June 2012, involving 1500 beneficiaries. An additional cycle of CFW involving 2,000 beneficiaries was completed in June 2013.

### **3.5 Unconditional Cash Transfers**

This activity was completed in September 2012.

### **3.6 Capacity Building – COFOB and Awareness-raising on DRR and Conflict Mitigation**

During previous reporting periods, community-based land management commissions (COFOBs) were established, trained, and introduced to 30 communities, a process that raised community awareness of conflict mitigation and management and on disaster risk reduction. An additional 10 committees were formed in June 2013.

## **4. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Mercy Corps continued to follow the work plan and collect data on relevant indicators throughout the cycle of programming. Mercy Corps staff, in close collaboration with local actors, monitored progress of program activities. Technicians from the GoN water department assisted with the monitoring of the well rehabilitation work, to ensure that construction standards are upheld.

## **5. Coordination**

Mercy Corps coordinated with government rural extension services, beneficiary communities, and local authorities to ensure ownership and full participation in all stages of program implementation. The technical extension services assisted in CFW activity training and implementation while the

Water Department collaborated with Mercy Corps on the delivery of the training for the water source management committees, site monitoring and reception of infrastructure. Mercy Corps has worked closely with COFODEP representatives to support the establishment and functionality of the 30 COFOBs established under the program.

Mercy Corps aims to avoid duplication and promote harmonization of efforts with other actors present in the region.

## **6. Conclusion and Upcoming Activities**

Rehabilitation of four of the five planned pastoral wells was completed within the framework of the current Unfunded Modification, by September 30, 2013, the date of project closing. The final report will compile accomplishments, lessons learned over the course of program implementation and an analysis of overall cost effectiveness of the intervention.